

FISHERY ECOSYSTEM PLAN CLIMATE AND COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE UPDATE

In March 2017, the Council initially scoped a potential Fishery Ecosystem Plan initiative to take up in the coming years and requested the Ad Hoc Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG) to report back in September 2017 with more information to choose between a combined initiative on the socio-economic effects of fisheries management practices on fishing communities (A.2.7) and on human recruitment to the fisheries (A.2.6), and an initiative on the effects of near-term climate shift and long-term climate change on our fish, fisheries, and fishing communities (A.2.8). The EWG presented a report in September ([Agenda Item I.2.a, Ad Hoc Ecosystem Workgroup Report 1](#)) that identified specific objectives of the initiatives, inventoried available information, and proposed a timeline for completing either or both initiatives. Based on this scoping, the Council decided to begin work on the Climate Shift Initiative with an emphasis on the wellbeing of dependent fishing communities.

The EWG met by webinar on December 18, 2017, to discuss further development of this initiative. The EWG adopted a slightly modified name for this initiative, the “Climate and Communities Initiative” to emphasize that the Council’s role in responding to the effects of climate change includes the human component of the ecosystem. Based on the webinar discussion, the EWG drafted the attached report, which reviews the objectives and schedule, and provides more information on management questions and issues that could benefit from increased climate and ecosystem science input.

In addition, based on a recommendation in the September 2017 EWG report, confirmed by the Council, the National Marine Fisheries Service Northwest and Southwest Fisheries Science Centers organized a series of four webinars on the effects of climate change on the California Current ecosystem, which were presented in January and February 2018. Recordings of these webinars are available on the [Council’s website](#).

The 20 member tribes of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission in western Washington submitted a report on the effects of climate change on tribal rights and resources. The Executive Summary is provided in printed form; the full report is available in electronic format on the Council’s [briefing book webpage](#).

Council Action:

Review Progress and Provide Guidance.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item F.2.a, Tribal Report 1: Climate Change and Our Natural Resources; A Report from the Treaty Tribes in Western Washington Executive Summary (Full version Electronic Only).
2. Agenda Item F.2.a, Ad Hoc Ecosystem Workgroup Report 1.

Agenda Order:

- F.2 Fishery Ecosystem Plan Climate and Communities Initiative Update
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Review Progress and Provide Guidance

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